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Twenty-fifth special session
Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole
Agenda items 8, 9 and 10

Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mr. Alireza **Esamaeilzadeh** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its twenty-fifth special session, on 6 June 2001, the General Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-fifth special session and elected Mr. Germán García-Durán (Colombia) Chairman by acclamation.

2. The Ad Hoc Committee held ... meetings, on 6, 7 and ... June 2001, to hear representatives of Governments and organizations of the United Nations system, including funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners, and to consider the questions of review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (agenda item 8), further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (agenda item 9) and the declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium (agenda item 10).

3. At its 1st meeting, on 6 June, the Ad Hoc Committee elected, by acclamation, Mr. Seydou Sy Sall (Senegal), Mr. Manfred Konukiewitz (Germany) and Mr. Andrzej Olszówka (Poland) as Vice-Chairmen and Mr. Alireza Esamaeilzadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Rapporteur.

01-40277 (E) 070601

4. In connection with its consideration of agenda items 8, 9 and 10, the Ad Hoc Committee had before it the report of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).[1]

5. At the 1st meeting, the representative of Chile made a statement on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

6. At the same meeting, a Habitat Goodwill Ambassador and a representative of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Local Authorities made statements.

7. Statements were also made by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on adequate housing.

9. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank.

10. The observer of the Forum of Researchers on Human Settlements also made a statement.

11. At the 2nd meeting, on 7 June, statements were made by the Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children Fund, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme.

12. A member of the United Nations Task Force on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction also made a statement.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations: International Council of Women, Forum of Researchers on Human Settlements, David M. Kennedy Centre for International Studies, Grass Roots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood, Global Compliance Research Project, Centre for Research and Environmental Management Systems, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Services, International Alliance of Women, International Cooperative Alliance, Caucus for the Advancement of the Billings Ovulation Method, Arc — Peace, Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, Canadian Housing Renewal Association and Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements.

14. At the 3rd meeting, on ... June, the Ad Hoc Committee considered the draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth special session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-25/2).

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Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole
Agenda item 10
Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mr. Alireza **Esamaeilzadeh** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Addendum

1. At its ... meeting, on ... June 2001, the Committee of the Whole considered paragraphs 8, 24, 33, 34 and 49 of the draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium (A/S-25/2).

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 8 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We commend the efforts by all levels of government, the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and Habitat Agenda partners as well as those by the Executive Director of United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and welcome the progress made thus far towards implementation of the Habitat Agenda. We note with appreciation the national and regional reports on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda[1] and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the overall review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (A/S-25/3), taking into account the specific priorities and objectives of each region, and in conformity with the legal framework and national policies of each country."

(b) Paragraph 24 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We have identified considerable obstacles associated with limited economic, technological and institutional capacities at all levels of government, particularly in the developing and the least developed countries.

[1] These reports have been provided to the special session as information documents.

01-40339 (E) 070601

We recognize the absence of comprehensive and inclusive policies for capacity-building institutions and their networking."

(c) Paragraph 33 was replaced by the following three paragraphs:

"We invite Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations to strengthen the quality and consistency of their support to poverty eradication and sustainable human settlements development, in particular to the least developed countries. This in turn requires not only renewed political will, but also the mobilization and allocation of new and additional resources at both the national and international levels. We urge the strengthening of international assistance to developing countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty, including by creating an enabling environment that would facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy, improving their market access, facilitating the flow of financial resources and implementing fully and effectively all initiatives already launched regarding debt relief.

"We emphasize that the international community should consider further measures, as appropriate, that would lead to durable solutions to the external debt burden of developing countries.

"In this connection, we express our appreciation to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and call upon developed countries that have not yet done so to strengthen their efforts to achieve the agreed target of 0.7 per cent as soon as possible and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of the gross national product for the least developed countries."

(d) Paragraph 34 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We request the international community to strongly support poverty eradication, and welcome the ongoing consultations by the Secretary-General on the establishment of a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication to finance and realize, inter alia, the social policies and programmes of the Habitat Agenda to address challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in developing countries, especially the least developed countries, bearing in mind the voluntary nature of the contributions."

(e) Paragraph 49 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We resolve to intensify efforts for ensuring transparent, responsible, accountable, just, effective and efficient governance of cities and other human settlements. We recognize that good governance, within each country and at the international level is essential to addressing the challenge of urban poverty as well as the challenge of environmental degradation and to harnessing the potential opportunities offered by globalization. Cities need specific approaches and methodologies to improve governance, to plan and act strategically in order to reduce urban poverty and social exclusion and to improve the economic and social status of all citizens and protect the environment in a sustainable way. In connection with this, we note the importance of promoting sustainable livelihoods through education and training, particularly for the poor and vulnerable groups."

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Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole
Agenda item 10
Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mr. Alireza **Esamaeilzadeh** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Addendum

1. The Committee of the Whole considered paragraphs 42 and 43 of the draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium (see A/S-25/2, chap. VII.C, draft decision 2/1) at its ... meeting, on ... June 2001.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 42 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We commit ourselves to the goal of gender equality in human settlements development and we resolve to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty and to stimulate the development of human settlements that are truly sustainable. We further commit ourselves to formulating and strengthening policies and practices to promote the full and equal participation of women in human settlements planning and decision-making."

(b) Paragraph 43 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We also commit ourselves to strengthening existing financial mechanisms and identifying and developing appropriate innovative approaches for financing shelter and human settlements development at all levels. Furthermore, we resolve to continue to undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies, as well

01-40357 (E) 080601

as ensuring their right to security of tenure and to enter into contractual agreements. We resolve to promote increased and equal access for all people to open, efficient, effective and appropriate housing finance, to support savings mechanisms in the informal sector, where appropriate, and to strengthen regulatory and legal frameworks and financial management capacity at all appropriate levels."

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Twenty-fifth special session
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Agenda item 10
Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mr. Alireza **Esamaeilzadeh** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Addendum

The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered a new paragraph (para. 61 bis) to the draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium (A/S-25/2) at its ... meeting on ... June 2001.

At the same meeting, the Committee approved paragraph 61 bis, which reads as follows:

> "We reaffirm our commitment to international cooperation as an essential element to implement the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda. In this regard, we invite the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on options for reviewing and strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and function of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council and decisions of the Habitat II Conference."[1]

[1] General Assembly resolutions 51/177 of 16 December 1996 and 53/242 of 28 July 1999, the agreed conclusions of the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council of 2000, and paras. 224 and 229 of the Habitat Agenda.

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Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mr. Alireza **Esmaeilzadeh** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Addendum

The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered paragraph 37 of the draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium (A/S-25/2) at its ... meeting on ... June 2001.

At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended paragraph 37, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 37 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We further resolve to empower local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners, within the legal framework and according to the conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in shelter provision and in sustainable human settlements development. This can be achieved through effective decentralization, where appropriate, of responsibilities, policy management, decision-making authority and sufficient resources, where possible including revenue-collection authority to local authorities, through participation and local democracy as well as through international cooperation and partnerships. In particular, the effective role of women in decision-making in local authorities should be ensured, if necessary through appropriate mechanisms. In this context we agree to intensify our dialogue, where possible, including, inter alia, through the Commission on Human Settlements on all issues related to effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in conformity with the legal framework and policies of each country."

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Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mr. Alireza **Esamaeilzadeh** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Addendum

The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered a chapeau and new paragraphs 27 bis and 53 bis, ter and quater to the draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium (A/S-25/2) at its 3rd meeting, on 9 June 2001.

At the same meeting, the Committee approved the chapeau and the new paragraphs and recommended the chapeau and the new paragraphs to the special session for adoption:

(a) The chapeau, which includes paragraph 1 of the draft declaration as contained in document A/S-25/2, reads as follows:

> "We, the representatives of Governments, being guided by the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, meeting at this special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to recognize progress, and to identify obstacles and emerging issues, reaffirm our will and commitment to implement fully the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda and decide on further initiatives, in the spirit of the Millennium Declaration. The Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda will remain the basic framework for sustainable human settlements development in the years to come.
>
> "Therefore, we"

(b) The word "We" is deleted from the beginning of all the subsequent paragraphs of the draft declaration.

(c) Heading "A" of the draft declaration is moved after old paragraph 1 of the draft declaration.

01-40589 (E) 110601

(d) Paragraph 2 of the draft declaration as contained in document A/S-25/2 becomes paragraph 1 and subsequent paragraphs are renumbered accordingly.

(e) Paragraph 27 bis reads as follows:

"We further resolve to take concerted action against international terrorism, which causes serious obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda."

(f) Paragraph 53 bis reads as follows:

"We resolve to take further effective measures to remove obstacles to the full implementation of the Habitat Agenda as well as obstacles to the realization of the rights of the peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, that are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated."

(g) Paragraph 53 ter reads as follows:

"We also resolve to expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in conformity with international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, including article 49 thereof."

(h) Paragraph 53 quater reads as follows:

"We resolve to strengthen international cooperation, including the burden sharing in, and the coordination of humanitarian assistance to, countries hosting refugees and to help all refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes, in safety and dignity, and to be smoothly reintegrated in their societies."

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Twenty-fifth special session
Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole
Agenda item 10
Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft resolution
Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

The General Assembly

Adopts the Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium annexed to the present resolution.

Annex
Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

[For the text of the annex, see A/S-25/2 as amended by A/S-25/2/AC.1/L.1 and Add.1-]

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